

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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62

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8642

S E C R E T LISBON 3850

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI RESUPPLY VIA LAJES

REF: MADRID 5944

SUMMARY: SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL HAS ADVISED THAT CAETANO PERSONALLY REMOVED REQUEST FOR MISSILES FROM MEMO PRESENTED TO STOESSEL OCTOBER 15. OFFICIALS ALSO PROVIDED INFO CONCERNING GOP PLANS FOR HANDLING INQUIRIES ON SUBJECT OF RESUPPLY OPERATIONS, AND SOUGHT INFO CONCERNING TIMING OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DECEMBER VISIT TO LISBON. END SUMMARY

1. AT LUNCH OCTOBER 17 I DISCUSSED CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING ISRAELI RESUPPLY FLIGHTS THROUGH LAJES WITH FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS FREITAS CRUZ. HE PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFO.

2. CAETANO LETTER TO PRESIDENT AND ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM: HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE FOLLOW UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE MEMO. HE STATED THAT CAETANO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFTING OF THE LETTER AND MEMO AND THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY EXCISED REQUEST IN THE DRAFT MEMO FOR THE SUPPLY OF MISSILES, AGREEING ONLY TO HAVE THAT TOPIC

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RAISED ORALLY BY AMBASSADOR THEMIDO. I SUGGESTED THAT GOP AGREEMENT TO ISRAELI RESUPPLY FLIGHTS VIA LAJES

WAS ALREADY HAVING ITS EFFECT, CITING INSTRUCTIONS TO USUN TO VOTE AGAINST MEASURE CHARGING PORTUGAL WITH AGGRESSION IN GUINEA-BISSAU.

3. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON ISRAELI RESUPPLY OPERATIONS: I HAD EARLIER SUPPLIED HIM WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT WE HAVE USED IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES: "AS STATED PUBLICLY BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF OCTOBER 12, OUR ONGOING MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS WELL KNOWN AND IS CONTINUING. WE NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY SPECIFIC INFORMATION RELATING TO THAT RELATIONSHIP." AT HIS REQUEST I HAD ALSO EARLIER PROVIDED HIM WITH DRAFT STATEMENT GOP MIGHT WISH USE, AS FOLLOWS: "WE HAVE NOTED REPORTS OF INCREASED UTILIZATION OF LAJES FIELD BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT RECENTLY. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT FOR OVER TWO DECADES U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE HAD STANDING PERMISSION UNDER THE BASE AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL TO UTILIZE LAJES FIELD FOR TRANSIT FLIGHTS WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT." CRUZ ADVISED THAT GOP FOR THE TIME BEING HAD DECIDED TO SAY NOTHING. IT HAD INFORMED ITS EMBASSIES THAT GOP CONSIDERS PRESENT ACTIVITIES AT LAJES AS NORMAL UTILIZATION OF THE BASE TO WHICH U.S. ENTITLED UNDER TERMS OF BASE AGREEMENT. PORTUGUESE EMBASSIES IN LONDON, PARIS AND BONN HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE FULLY INFORMED OF THE SITUATION. GOP HAS DEVELOPED A CONTINGENCY STATEMENT VERY SIMILAR TO MY DRAFT WHICH IT MAY USE IF APPROACHED BY ARAB COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT OTHERWISE GOP PLANS MAINTAIN PRESS BLACKOUT IN HOPES PRESS INTEREST WILL DRY UP. GOP, HE CLAIMED, HAS NOW TAKEN EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE AGAINST ANY FURTHER PRESS LEAKS HERE (DIARIO DE LISBOA CARRIED SMALL ITEM ON RESUPPLY VIA LAJES OCTOBER 16 FOR SECOND STRAIGHT DAY AND AFTER GOP HAD ALLEGEDLY IMPOSED PRESS BLACKOUT). HE EXPRESSED GOP STRONG DISSATISFACTION WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS STATEMENT OCTOBER 16 (REFTEL), ESPECIALLY GRATUITIOUS

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REFERENCE TO AZORES.

4. HE INQUIRED IF SECRETARY KISSINGER PLANNED TO COME TO LISBON IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 10 AND 11. HE NOTED THAT FONMIN PATRICIO AT THE MOMENT PLANS PROCEED FROM NATO MEETING TO PARIS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH FONMIN JOBERT DECEMBER 12 AND 13. IF SECRETARY KISSINGER PLANNED VISIT MADRID IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING NATO MEETING, PERHAPS

PATRICIO COULD MAINTAIN PRESENT SCHEDULE. IF NOT
HE WOULD BE PREPARED RESCHEDULE JOBERT MEETING IN
ORDER BE IN LISBON WHEN SECRETARY IS HERE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHEN CONVENIENT
CONCERNING SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS.
POST

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NNN

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